

Appl. Serial No. 10/001,407
Response dated Jan. 7, 2004
Reply to Office Action of Nov. 12, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Preliminary to examination on the merits, please amend the above-captioned application in accordance with the following Listing of Claims. This Listing will replace all prior versions, and Listings, of claims in the Application.

Listing of Claims:

1-54. **(Canceled)**

55. **(Original)** A kit for detecting HIV-2 nucleic acids, comprising:

(a) a first amplification oligonucleotide comprising a sequence of 9-34 contiguous bases contained within the sequence of SEQ ID NO:9, said first amplification oligonucleotide having a length of up to 100 nucleotides; and

(b) a second amplification oligonucleotide comprising a sequence of 19-40 contiguous bases from the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, said second amplification oligonucleotide having a length of up to 100 nucleotides.

56. **(Original)** The kit of Claim 55, further comprising:

(c) an oligonucleotide detection probe that comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:21 or the complement thereof, and a detectable label.

57. **(New)** The kit of Claim 55, wherein the length of the second amplification oligonucleotide is 19-40 nucleotides.

58. **(New)** The kit of Claim 57, wherein the length of the first amplification oligonucleotide is 18-60 nucleotides.

59. **(New)** The kit of Claim 58, wherein the length of the first amplification oligonucleotide is 18-34 nucleotides.

60. **(New)** The kit of Claim 59, wherein the length of the first amplification oligonucleotide is 18-25 nucleotides.

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61. (New) The kit of Claim 60, wherein the sequence of the first amplification oligonucleotide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13 and SEQ ID NO:14.

62. (New) The kit of Claim 57, wherein the length of the first amplification oligonucleotide is 18-60 nucleotides, and wherein the first amplification oligonucleotide further comprises a promoter sequence.

63. (New) The kit of Claim 57, wherein the length of the second amplification oligonucleotide is 19-21 nucleotides.

64. (New) The kit of Claim 63, wherein the length of the first amplification oligonucleotide is 18-34 nucleotides.

65. (New) The kit of Claim 58, wherein the length of the second amplification oligonucleotide is 19-21 nucleotides.

66. (New) The kit of Claim 62, wherein the first amplification oligonucleotide is a promoter-primer selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:18 and SEQ ID NO:19.

67. (New) The kit of Claim 65, wherein the second amplification oligonucleotide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6 and SEQ ID NO:7.

68. (New) The kit of Claim 65, wherein the first amplification oligonucleotide further comprises a promoter sequence.

69. (New) The kit of Claim 68, wherein the first amplification oligonucleotide is a promoter-primer selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:18 and SEQ ID NO:19.

70. (New) The kit of Claim 68, wherein the second amplification oligonucleotide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6 and SEQ ID NO:7.

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71. (New) The kit of Claim 69, wherein the second amplification oligonucleotide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6 and SEQ ID NO:7.

71. (New) The kit of Claim 55, wherein the length of the first amplification oligonucleotide is 18-25 nucleotides, and wherein the length of the second amplification oligonucleotide is 19-21 nucleotides.

73. (New) The kit of Claim 71, wherein the first amplification oligonucleotide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13 and SEQ ID NO:14.

74. (New) The kit of Claim 72, wherein the second amplification oligonucleotide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6 and SEQ ID NO:7.

75. (New) The kit of Claim 73, wherein the second amplification oligonucleotide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6 and SEQ ID NO:7.

76. (New) The kit of Claim 56, wherein said oligonucleotide detection probe has a length of up to 18 nucleotides.

77. (New) The kit of Claim 76, wherein the sequence of said oligonucleotide detection probe is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:26 and SEQ ID NO:27.

78. (New) The kit of Claim 77, wherein the sequence of the first amplification oligonucleotide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:10, SEQ ID NO:11, SEQ ID NO:12, SEQ ID NO:13, SEQ ID NO:14, SEQ ID NO:15, SEQ ID NO:16, SEQ ID NO:17, SEQ ID NO:18 and SEQ ID NO:19, wherein the sequence of the second amplification oligonucleotide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:6 and SEQ ID NO:7, and wherein the sequence of the oligonucleotide detection probe is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:22, SEQ ID NO:23, SEQ ID NO:24, SEQ ID NO:25, SEQ ID NO:26 and SEQ ID NO:27.

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79. (New) The kit of Claim 56, wherein said oligonucleotide detection probe has a length of up to 35 nucleotides.

80. (New) The kit of Claim 79, wherein the length of said oligonucleotide detection probe is up to 22 nucleotides.

81. (New) The kit of Claim 80, wherein said oligonucleotide detection probe comprises at least 16 contiguous nucleotides contained within the sequence of SEQ ID NO:20 or the complement thereof.

82. (New) The kit of Claim 81, wherein said oligonucleotide detection probe has the sequence of SEQ ID NO:20 or the complement thereof.

83. (New) The kit of Claim 81, wherein said oligonucleotide detection probe has a length of up to 18 nucleotides.

84. (New) The kit of Claim 83, wherein the length of said oligonucleotide detection probe is 18 nucleotides.

85. (New) The kit of Claim 83, wherein said oligonucleotide detection probe has a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:22 or the complement thereof, SEQ ID NO:23 or the complement thereof, SEQ ID NO:24 or the complement thereof, SEQ ID NO:25 or the complement thereof, SEQ ID NO:26 or the complement thereof, and SEQ ID NO:27 or the complement thereof.

86. (New) The kit of Claim 79, wherein said oligonucleotide detection probe comprises DNA.

87. (New) The kit of Claim 79, wherein said oligonucleotide detection probe comprises at least one nucleotide analog.

88. (New) The kit of Claim 87, wherein said at least one nucleotide analog comprises a methoxy group at the 2' position of a ribose moiety.

89. (New) The kit of Claim 85, wherein the detectable label is a chemiluminescent label or a radiolabel.

90. (New) The kit of Claim 89, wherein the detectable label is an acridinium ester.